



COUNTY BOROUGH OF STOCKPORT

REPORT

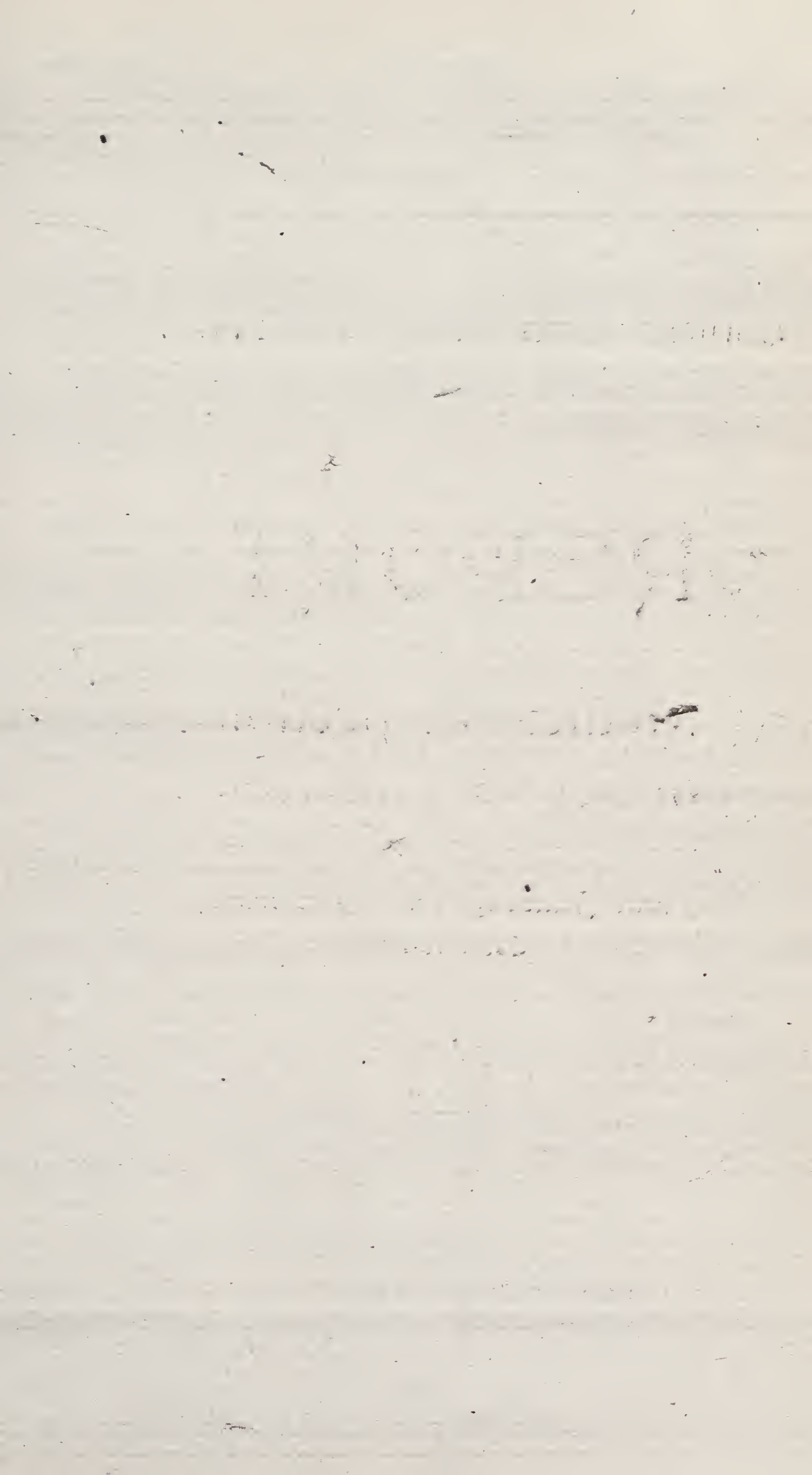
ON THE

Medical Inspection of School Children

*From January 1st to December
31st, 1919.*



Printed at the "*Express*" Office, St. Peter's Sq., Stockport.



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Vice-Chairman—Alderman J. T. Hopkins.

The Mayor—Councillor T. Rowbotham, J.P.

The Mayoress—Miss F. Rowbotham.

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Mr. R. Johnson.

Rev. H. Sewell.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Officer to the Education Committee—
H. E. Corbin, B.Sc., M.B.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

W. F. Wigglesworth, M.B., D.P.H. (April 7 to June 30).

School Medical Officers—M. D. Barber-Taylor, M.B., Ch.B.

W. H. Rowell, C.B.E., M.D., D.P.H. (commenced Sept. 8, 1919).

School Nurses—Miss Pott, Mrs. Meir (died Nov. 30th, 1919), and Miss Bell.

Assistants at Inspections—Miss Taylor and Miss Bourne.

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YEAR 1919.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the County Borough of Stockport.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Medical Inspection and Treatment of School Children for the year 1919.

With the exception of a short period in the Summer, during which Dr. Wigglesworth resumed duty as School Medical Officer, the work was carried out until September by Dr. Barber-Taylor, but as it was found impossible for one Medical Officer to complete the requirements of the Board of Education, Dr. W. H. Rowell, O.B.E., was appointed as an additional School Medical Officer.

As a result of the increased Staff it has been possible this year for the first time to examine all the children in the "Code" Groups, namely, Entrants, Intermediate Group, and Leavers, as well as special cases, as required by the Board, and also to develop the work of the School Clinic.

The number of children examined during the year was 8,502, of whom 3,304, or 39·4 per cent., were found to be suffering from one or more defects, as compared with 45 per cent. in 1918. These defects do not include verminous condition of the head, which existed in 12·8 per cent. of the children examined, as compared with 13 per cent. last year and 23·4 per cent. in 1917. Upwards of 13,000 children have been examined at the Schools by the Nursing Staff for this condition, and considerable improvement results from these inspections as well as from the efforts of the teachers in this connection.

The work of the School Clinic has again increased, and it has been found necessary to open the Clinic on four days per week instead of two. 2,866 children attended with a total number of attendances of 11,022 during the year. With the exception of 746 attendances at the Branch Clinic at Reddish the work has been carried out under somewhat difficult conditions at the Town Hall. At the present time I am glad to be able to report that this work has commenced at the new School Clinic, 108 Wellington Road South, which will provide all the accommodation necessary.

At the Voluntary Dental Clinic at Tiviot Dale treatment has again been carried out for the children attending Christ Church School. This Clinic has recently been taken over by the Education Committee, and a School Dentist appointed.

The number of necessitous children requiring free meals is fortunately decreasing. An average of 37·4 children per week were provided with meals, as compared with 78·5 in 1918, and two centres only are now in use.

It is with sincere regret that I have to report the death in November of Mrs. Meir, one of the School Nurses, who faithfully served the Committee during her appointment.

I have to express my thanks to the Education Committee for the consideration given to the suggestions of the School Medical Officers, as well as to the Secretary of Education and his Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

H. E. CORBIN,

APRIL, 1920.

Medical Officer to the Education Committee.

ACCOMMODATION OF AND ATTENDANCE AT THE SCHOOLS.

The County Borough of Stockport has, since the amalgamation of the Heaton Norris area in November, 1913, an area of 7,059 acres, and an estimated population of 130,868. There is, therefore, approximately one elementary school child to ever 6.93 persons living in the district. The corresponding figure for England and Wales at the time of the last census, 1911, was 5.9, and for the County of London 6.08. The following list gives the school accommodation of the Borough and average attendance up to December 31st, 1919:—

NAME OF SCHOOL.		Dept.	Accom- modation.	No. on Roll.	No. of Partial Exemp- tion. Scholars.	Aver- age Atten- dance.	Per- cent- age.
Alexandra Park Cl.	..	S.	500	342	—	296	87
„	..	J.	400	364	—	297	82
Edgeley Council	..	M.	310	349	—	293	84
„	..	I.	150	170	—	140	82
Higher Brinksway Cl.	..	S.	252	277	55	218	88
„	..	J.	215	258	—	207	80
St. Matthew's C.E.	..	M.	425	387	—	313	81
„	..	I.	198	205	—	134	65
St. John's, Heaton Mersey	..	M.	253	235	—	196	83
„	..	I.	142	95	—	61	64
Heaton Moor Temp. Cl.	..	M.	128	88	1	76	87
„	..	I.	150	150	—	128	85
Hope Memorial C.E.	..	I.	223	148	—	103	70
Cheadle Heath Cl.	..	M.	320	309	1	276	90
„	..	I.	160	129	—	94	73
St. Thomas', Htn. Chapel	..	M.	328	213	3	185	88
„	..	I.	120	81	—	65	80
Hollywood Park Council	..	M.	500	416	—	338	81
„	..	I.	200	206	—	143	69
Brentnall Street Wesleyan H.G.	..	M.	462	498	—	438	88
„	..	I.	144	152	—	131	86
Edgeley R.C.	..	B.	317	365	67	268	81
„	..	G.	345	344	40	247	76
„	..	I.	238	221	—	170	77
St. Peter's C.E.	..	M.	337	294	—	233	79
„	..	I.	209	84	—	58	69
Central Partial Exempt	..	M.	294	362	362	173	96
Lancashire Hill Council	..	M.	397	372	38	294	83
„	..	I.	157	109	—	78	72
All Saints' C.E.	..	M.	318	295	37	224	81
„	..	I.	210	132	—	83	63
Christ Church of E.	..	S.	364	430	85	334	86
„	..	J.	220	251	—	219	87
„	..	I.	243	220	—	159	72

NAME OF SCHOOL.		Dept.	Accom- modation.	No. on Roll.	No. of Partial Exemp- tion. Scholars.	Aver- age Atten- dance.	Per- cent- age.
St. Mary's R.C.	..	M.	337	392	42	310	84
"	..	I.	195	170	—	125	74
Houldsworth's	..	M.	419	442	42	350	83
"	..	I.	286	215	—	159	74
North Reddish Council	..	S.	360	359	18	289	83
"	..	J.	300	267	—	210	79
"	..	I.	320	289	—	231	80
Reddish R.C.	..	M. & I.	360	199	11	146	76
South Reddish Council	..	M.	227	247	32	200	87
"	..	I.	141	171	—	126	74
St. Mary's C.E.	..	M.	153	183	18	143	82
"	..	I.	136	120	—	96	80
Wellington Road Council	..	M.	308	341	18	272	82
"	..	I.	127	121	—	78	64
Hanover Council	..	M.	344	277	42	205	80
"	..	I.	107	60	—	44	73
St. Thomas' C.E.	..	M.	720	746	110	575	83
"	..	I.	324	212	—	144	68
Parish Church of E.	..	M.	600	527	—	441	84
"	..	I.	219	196	—	132	67
Great Moor	..	M.	330	314	—	271	86
"	..	I.	120	125	—	103	82
St. George's C.E.	..	M.	300	295	—	262	89
"	..	J.	300	292	—	241	83
"	..	I.	272	289	—	206	71
Cale Green Council	..	M.	464	315	9	244	77
"	..	I.	220	187	—	119	64
Banks Lane Council	..	M.	362	298	22	242	84
"	..	I.	124	133	—	73	55
Stockport R.C.	..	B.	226	272	48	204	82
"	..	G.	242	287	37	195	73
"	..	I.	230	249	—	162	65
St. Paul's C.E.	..	M.	311	370	70	278	83
"	..	I.	143	161	—	115	71
Vernon Park Council	..	M.	600	387	—	326	84
"	..	I.	320	235	—	174	74
Portwood Temp. Council	..	M.	348	390	26	310	82
"	..	I.	237	182	—	98	54

Totals, 18th December, 1919	..	20361	18866	1225	14571	79.8
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During the earlier part of the year the five following schools were still occupied by the Military Authorities :—Alexandra Park Council, Vernon Park Council, Hollywood Park Council, North Reddish Council, and St. George's C.E. Scholars who had been displaced attended at St. Matthew's C.E., Edgeley Council, Parish Church of E.; St. Peter's C.E., Cale Green Council, St. Joseph's R.C., Reddish and the Houldsworth Schools. Three Infant Departments were accommodated in Sunday Schools, and these, together with the Infant Department of the Parish Church of E., attended full time. All other departments attended on the "double shift" system. This was abolished in September, when the staff and scholars of the five schools were able to resume work in their own buildings.

The partial exemption scholars from schools which were on the "double shift" system, excepting those from North Reddish, still attend the classes accommodated in the premises of the old Grammar School.

The Committee's Cookery Centre at Charlesworth Street was used, with its equipment and cooking utensils, by the Military Authorities up to April 25th, 1919.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

HEATING.—New boilers in connection with the heating apparatus have been fixed at Lancashire Hill Council and Stockport R.C. Schools.

LIGHTING.—Electric lighting, in place of incandescent lighting, has been installed at Christ Church School. The presence of small leaded panes in the windows of the Houldsworth School interferes with the natural lighting. Frosted windows in Edgeley Council School cause a diminution in the amount of available light.

YARD SURFACES.—The playgrounds at Portwood Temporary Council, Edgeley Council, and Cale Green Council Schools have been re-asphalted. This has also been done at the ex-Military Hospitals—Hollywood Park Council, North Reddish Council, Alexandra Park Council, and Vernon Park Council Schools.

The playground at Heaton Moor Temporary School has been re-cindered.

The yard surface at Higher Brinksway Council School is in a very unsatisfactory condition ; at Cheadle Heath Council School the surface is flooded with water after a slight rainfall. The playground at St. George's C.E. School needs re-asphalting.

FURNITURE.—Dual desks are still needed in many of the schools.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.—The privy middens at St. Mary's C.E. Schools and Great Moor C.E. Schools still constitute nuisances.

Offices have been erected at Heaton Moor Temporary School.

The washing accommodation at St. Thomas' C.E. Schools is very unsatisfactory. The pressure of water only allows one tap to be running at once.

EXTENT AND SCOPE OF THE INSPECTION.

286 visits have been made to the Elementary Schools during the year. All the schools have received a full inspection of Entrants, Intermediates, Leavers and Special Cases. From January to April the Entrants, Leavers, and Special Cases were examined. The increase of staff made it possible for the Intermediate Group to be included; in order to make the examinations complete, the schools already inspected were re-visited to examine the 8-year old children.

Re-examinations of the children found to be defective were made at the end of the year, and records made of the results of treatment. This was completed in 19 schools. The Secondary Schools received a full inspection of the boys and girls of the first and third years. The parents attended well, and no opposition was encountered. The examination was completed in 8 visits.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED.

1ST JANUARY, 1919, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1919.

A.—“CODE” GROUPS.

Age.	ENTRANTS.					Total.
	3.	4.	5.	6.	Other Ages.	
Boys	—	29	688	304	97	1118
Girls	—	24	622	305	118	1069
Totals	—	53	1310	609	215	2187

Age.	Intermediate Group.	Leavers.					Grand Total.
	8.	12.	13.	14.	Other Ages	Total Leavers.	
Boys	919	827	199	41	68	1135	3172
Girls	854	857	208	39	91	1195	3118
Totals ..	1773	1684	407	80	159	2330	6290

B.—GROUPS OTHER THAN “CODE.”

(1)	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years). (2)	Special Cases. (3)	Re-Examinations (i.e. No. of Children Re-Examined). (4)
Boys	22	1129	875
Girls	22	1039	787
Totals ...	44	2168	1656

This gives a total of 10,158 examinations during the year, and, omitting the re-examinations, the total number of children examined is 8,502 ; 123 of these were special cases examined at the School Clinic.

The number of children with defects was 3,304, or 39·4 per cent. of the total number examined. Many of the children suffered from more than one defect. The total number of defects excluding verminous conditions and requiring treatment, was 6,664. Amongst the Routine Cases under the "Code" age groups, 4,433 defects were recorded.

The number of parents present at the School Inspections was 1,999, or 23·85 per cent. This is again a higher percentage, though the increase is only small compared with the increase of the two previous years. Treatment is much more easily obtained when the parent is present at the inspection.

A few weeks after the School inspection, when sufficient time has elapsed for the Doctor's advice to have been followed out, the home of each child found defective is visited by the Nurses, in order to record what has been done, and to impress on the parents again the need for treatment and the ways of obtaining it. The number of visits to homes for the year is 7053.

In addition to the 3,304 children having defects requiring treatment, 1203 children were marked for observation, that is, to be suffering defects not requiring treatment at the time, but necessitating re-examination of the child. In addition to the home visiting the School Nurses have inspected 29 schools for cleanliness of heads. A complete inspection consists of six weekly visits : at the first every child present is inspected, and each child whose head is verminous is marked to be seen again, and is examined each visit until the condition is remedied.

It is only at a very few schools that the six visits are not needed, and at many schools the condition of the heads is still unsatisfactory after 6 weeks. Schools in the poorer districts of the Borough need more frequent inspections, as the parents allow the heads to become verminous again so soon.

177 visits have been made during the year ; 13,393 children (boys and girls) were examined, and 1848 heads, or 13·8 per cent. were found to be in a verminous, condition.

A School Nurse has been 11 times to the Manchester Skin Hospital in charge of children for X-ray treatment.

The tables which follow give the physical condition of the children inspected :—

Return of defects found in the course of Medical Inspection (Table II.) ; a Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area (Table III.) ; Treatment of Defects of Children during 1919 (Table IV.) ; and Inspection, Treatment, &c., of Children during 1919 (Table V.).

In all the Tables under the head of Special Cases, are included all special cases which were inspected during the year whether at the schools or at the Inspection Clinics.

TABLE II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS
FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1919.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Malnutrition	493	23	—	2
Uncleanliness :				
Head	808	4	—	1
Body	10	—	—	—
Skin :				
Ringworm—Head	5	—	—	—
" Body	4	—	—	—
Scabies	32	—	7	—
Impetigo	26	3	8	3
Other disease	61	10	26	1
Eye :				
Defective vision and squint	1265	308	677	56
External eye disease ..	149	21	77	9
Ear :				
Defective hearing	466	137	199	15
Ear disease	236	10	163	10
Teeth :				
Dental Disease (see N.B. (2) below)				
Nose and Throat :				
Enlarged Tonsils	388	138	137	52
Adenoids	46	7	25	5
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids	93	9	33	4
Defective Speech	141	5	66	1
Heart and Circulation :				
Heart disease—organic ..	62	45	29	9
" Functional ..	30	4	8	—
Anæmia	55	20	21	6
Lungs :				
Pulmonary tuberculosis				
Definite	10	8	24	—
Suspected	20	8	28	5
Chronic bronchitis	93	28	46	2
Other disease	27	—	12	—
Nervous System :				
Epilepsy	14	4	12	5
Chorea	6	1	5	1
Other disease	14	14	13	—
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis				
Glands	12	20	11	—
Bones and joints	6	3	4	—
Other forms	4	—	4	—
Rickets	39	15	18	1
Deformities	80	42	56	—
Other defects or diseases ..	518	291	320	88

TABLE III.—NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
IN THE AREA IN 1919.

		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
BLIND, (including partially blind).....	Attending Public Elementary Schools	—	1	1
	Attending Certified Schools for the Blind ...	7	4	11
	Not at School	1	—	1
DEAF AND DUMB (including partially deaf)	Attending Public Elementary Schools.....	—	1	1
	Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf .	5	7	12
	Not at School	—	1	1
MENTALLY DEFICIENT: Feeble-Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools.....	64	32	96
	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children	3	1	4
	Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year	1	1	2
	Not at School	—	—	—
Imbeciles	At School	—	—	—
	Not at School	4	2	6
Idiots		—	—	—
EPILEPTICS	Attending Public Elementary Schools.....	22	15	37
	Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics..	1	—	1
	Not at School	3	2	5
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE:— Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Attending Public Elementary Schools.....	20	18	38
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
	Not at School	28	26	54
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools.....	45	40	85
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
	Not at School	28	29	57
Cripples others than Tubercular.	Attending Public Elementary Schools.....	22	29	51
	Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children	—	—	—
	Not at School	3	3	6
DULL OR BACKWARD*	Retarded 2 years	546	168	714
	Retarded 3 years	392	115	507

* Judged according to age and standard.

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1919.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated	Results of treatment.			No. of defects not treated	Percentage of defects treated
	From previous year.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improv'd.	Unchanged.		
Clothing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Footwear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleanliness of Head	—	69	69	—	69	69	—	—	—	100
Cleanliness of Body	—	14	14	—	14	14	—	—	—	100
Nutrition	10	40	50	5	44	5	38	1	1	88
Nose and Throat ..	192	646	838	148	521	304	167	50	169	62.05
External eye disease ..	49	173	222	22	194	117	67	10	6	87.88
Ear disease	70	147	217	11	200	100	87	13	6	92.16
Teeth.....	16	43	59	10	36	26	9	1	13	61.15
Heart & Circulation ..	47	192	239	18	218	63	143	12	3	92.05
Lungs	43	295	338	25	307	159	137	11	6	91.12
Nervous System ..	11	36	47	6	41	8	30	3	—	87.23
Skin	21	136	157	5	152	139	11	2	—	96.81
Rickets	12	30	42	7	33	4	27	2	2	78.57
Deformities	26	75	101	17	78	32	39	7	6	77.22
Tuberculosis—										
Non-pulmonary ..	12	49	61	5	56	22	33	1	—	91.80
Speech.....	63	123	186	28	155	19	121	15	3	83.33
Mental condition ..	47	146	193	36	150	4	126	20	7	77.82
Vision and Squint ..	355	1052	1407	109	1055	1043	1	11	243	75.69
Hearing.....	171	422	593	65	491	305	167	19	37	85.49
Miscellaneous	41	143	184	15	162	68	78	16	7	88.04
Total	1186	3831	5017	532	3976	2501	1281	194	509	78.85

TABLE V.—INSPECTION, TREATMENT, &c., OF CHILDREN DURING 1919.

(1) The total number of Children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child).....	8,502
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	1,203
(3) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.).	3,304
(4) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanness, defective clothing, etc.)	2,801

EXCLUSIONS.

During the year 1,333 exclusions from school for varying periods of time were given. This number includes cases which were excluded at the School Inspections and also cases seen at the Clinic. Below is given a list of the conditions for which exclusion was necessary.

Skin : Scabies	177
Ringworm of Scalp	50
" " Body	38
Impetigo	448
Other disease	50
Verminous conditions	123
Infectious diseases	94
Eye disease	71
Ear disease	26
Nervous diseases	17
Phthisis	26
Chest diseases other than Phthisis	63
Tubercular conditions other than Phthisis	9
Anæmia, Debility and Suspected Tuberculosis	69
Heart diseases and Rheumatism	14
Tonsilitis	45
Mental Defect	5
Various	87
Total.....	1,412

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

4.2 per cent. of the routine cases are recorded as having unsatisfactory footgear ; whilst last year the percentage was 3.75. 2.93 per cent. of the routine cases are recorded as having unsatisfactory clothing.

CLOG FUND.

The Clog Fund is urgently in need of funds owing to the great increase in price of clogs. 203 pairs of clogs were provided during the year 1919 at a cost of £76 7s. 0d. The Fund is administered without charge by the Education Department.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

The proportion of children among the routine cases showing a verminous condition of the head is 12.8 per cent., as compared with 13.04 per cent. last year and 23.4 per cent. in 1917. This continued reduction is due in part to the series of visits paid to the schools by the Nurses, and also to the Teachers, who endeavour to bring about a more cleanly condition. A large number of the girls now wear their hair tied back or plaited, but there are still many who are quite indifferent to the fact that their heads are verminous.

More could be accomplished if it were a rule that the hair, if not kept short should be tied back or plaited. Many children, whose parents have the time and means, are not sent to school as clean or as tidy as they should be. The teachers need to have power to enforce where at present they can only suggest.

The percentage of very dirty heads is 1.2 and of pediculosis of the body is .09. The percentages have decreased from the previous year. The condition occurs repeatedly in a comparatively small number of families. Cleanliness is effected temporarily after the inspection, but the condition recurs after a short interval. These cases would not occur if measures were taken with the parents for allowing the child to be in a verminous condition, and not merely if the child is not cleansed after repeated warnings. Any bad case seen by the School Doctors is excluded from school, and only re-admitted after a certificate of cleanliness has been given. Forty-eight such cases have attended at the School Clinic, but no system of compulsory cleansing is yet in operation.

NUTRITION.

In 491 children or 7.9 per cent. of the routine cases, the nutrition is below normal. It will be seen in the tables of heights and weights given in the appendix, that while the average height of the children is only a little below normal, the average weight is far below the standard, this deficit being larger in the children of 8 or 12 years of age than in children of 5 years of age.

ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

6.2 per cent. of the routine cases were found to suffer from enlarged tonsils, and 1.73 from adenoids. Except for defective vision, tonsils and adenoids with the subsequent mouth-breathing and deafness form the greater part of the special cases. Mouth-breathing also occurs without any obstruction being present. The breathing exercises practised at school, in which nasal breathing is taught, are invaluable in remedying the condition. It is not always realized by the parents that operation is only part of the treatment for nasal obstruction, and that breathing exercises, properly performed, form a most important after-treatment.

Cases are referred to their own doctors and to the Stockport Infirmary.

EAR DISEASE AND DEAFNESS.

Deafness, as a result of chronic ear disease, is prevalent and causes dullness and backwardness in school. It results from untreated Tonsils and Adenoids, and from acute earache too often left unnoticed and untreated until the child has a "running ear" and some permanent loss of hearing.

TEETH.

The condition of the teeth continues to be very unsatisfactory; only in a very few cases is dental treatment obtained by the parents. In 39.6 of the children examined four or more carious teeth were present. At the Voluntary Dental Clinic at Tiviot Dale, valuable work has again been done for the children

attending at one school, viz., Christ Church School. The following figures of the treatment done there have been kindly supplied :—

Extractions—	1919	1918	1917
Temporary teeth.....	106	259	343
Permanent teeth	37	63	111
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	143	322	454
Fillings	65	166	202
Dressings, etc.	37		

Now that a Dental Clinic is established (January, 1920) a gradual improvement should be noticeable in the general health and physique of the children.

Tender and aching teeth prevent mastication and digestion of food, the septic material from the teeth and gums is swallowed with the food, malnutrition and anæmia follow, and the way made easy for nose and throat infection, Tuberculosis and Rickets to develop.

HEART AND CIRCULATION.

There were 62 cases of heart disease, and the majority of these were due to rheumatism. Anæmia occurred in 87 of the children examined.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Amongst the routine cases 0.1 per cent. were found to be phthisical and 0.31 per cent. were recommended treatment for suspected phthisis. All cases not already under treatment by their own doctors and who could not afford treatment were sent to the Dispensary.

The total number of children of school age attending the Dispensary during 1919 was 311; of these 180 were new cases during the year :—

Phthisis	14
Other forms of Tuberculosis	20
Bronchitis	52
Pretuberculosis and Debility	78
Various	16
	<hr/>
	180

61 children were examined as "contacts" of tubercular relatives.

Many of these children were excluded from school for varying periods of time.

An open-air School for pretubercular, debilitated and anæmic children is essential. Treatment and education could then be carried on concurrently.

The Fearn Trust have sent away 24 children to country homes. Anæmic and debilitated children seen by the Tuberculosis Officer and the School Doctors are chosen. From April 1st, 1919, the Fearn Trust in conjunction with the Health Committee, took over 10 beds at the Ormerod Convalescent Home, St. Annes-on-Sea.

Twenty-five children have received treatment there since that date.

NERVOUS DISEASES.

Thirty-six cases of Epilepsy were seen at the Schools. Very few of these were under medical treatment. It was difficult to persuade the parents that the condition is one that can be cured or the symptoms much ameliorated if the child has continued and systematic treatment.

One boy was sent away to the Soss Moss Epileptic Colony.

SKIN DISEASES.

The majority of the cases of ringworm and other contagious skin diseases are discovered and excluded by the teachers. Therefore but few cases are seen at the medical routine examination.

EYE DISEASES.

The incidence of eye disease amongst the routine cases has decreased considerably since last year. The percentage is 2.36. This is because the cases are sooner excluded by the teachers.

DEFORMITIES AND RICKETS.

80 or 1.27 per cent. of the routine cases were found to have deformities. These are the result, with a few exceptions, of rickets, tubercular disease, and infantile paralysis. These children attend the Elementary Schools. There is no special school for cripples. Many of them need special treatment—operative, or by special boots and supports.

CLASS FOR STAMMERING CHILDREN.

This class was resumed in September, 1919, in the old Grammar School.

In the period from September to December two classes of six weeks each were held.

The children were examined on entering, when defects of speech, nervous facial contortions, spasms of the body, etc., were recorded.

Correct breathing and the restoration of the nervous control of the speech-producing muscles form the basis of the cure in what is known as the Berquand method.

At the end of the course the children were again examined by the Doctor.

In all, 24 cases were treated, with the following results :—

Cured.....	16
Improved	7
Stationary	1. In this case lack of co-operation in the home hindered the progress.

A "following up" class, held on Saturday mornings, has always been open to children who had attended the class, and a large proportion of children have taken advantage of the opportunity thus offered.

This year, however, an additional half-day has been granted, so that the children will be in touch with the work, and under the supervision of the teacher on two half-days each week. It was felt that the break would then not be so pronounced, and a relapse less likely.

MENTALLY DEFECTIVE AND BACKWARD CHILDREN.

15 mentally defective children were seen amongst the routine cases and 18 amongst the special cases.

The number of mentally defective children in the area is given in Table III. In the same table are given the numbers of dull and backward children, that is children who are two, three or more years below the standard normal for their age. A considerable number of these children are by no means dull, but are backward as the result of illnesses which have necessitated absence from school, and it is for such cases that an open-air school is required. In other cases there has been late entrance into school. The difficulty in providing institutional treatment for mentally defective children continues.

Although the Authority have not yet been able to provide Special Day Schools, care has been taken to record the cases suitable for attendance at such schools with a view to complying with the requirements of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913.

The children ascertained to be incapable of receiving benefit from instruction in a Special School or Class, have been notified to the Local Authority under the Act; but extreme difficulty has been experienced in obtaining admission of the children to suitable institutions. It is understood that, as part of the Borough of Stockport is in Cheshire and part in Lancashire, an arrangement has been made whereby Stockport will be treated as a Lancashire town for the purpose of the Mental Deficiency Act. The Lancashire Asylums Board has, however, been able to offer very little accommodation for mentally defective children, as the Board has been compelled to defer obtaining further accommodation owing to the pressure of H.M. Treasury to curtail additional expenditure.

Efforts have been successful this year in obtaining admission to two institutions for children capable of benefiting by Education at a Special School. Three boys and two girls have been sent away during the year.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

Amongst the routine cases 15·8 per cent. have defective vision. This number is large when the fact that a large number of the Entrants do not have the Vision test is taken into consideration. Amongst the Entrants 5·1 per cent. suffered from squint, whilst the percentage amongst the Leavers was 2·45. The number of squints cured is improving, but treatment should begin before school age. If glasses are not provided, and treatment carried out before six years of age, the chances of cure are considerably less.

OTHER DISEASE OR DEFECT.

6·6 per cent. of the routine cases were found to come under this heading. They include cases of thyroid enlargement, rhinitis, hernia, kidney disease, infectious diseases, etc.

There were 96 cases of enlargement of the thyroid gland which required treatment. In addition to these, 54 were recorded as requiring to be kept under observation.

PHYSICAL TRAINING OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

PHYSICAL EXERCISES.—The Instructress reports :—During the year certain classes in the following schools have been visited on an average of about once a fortnight :—

St. Mary's C.E., Reddish	3 classes
South Reddish	3 classes
St. Mary's R.C., Dodge Hill	4 classes
Hanover	4 classes
Cheadle Heath	4 classes
Christ Church Junior.....	all 5 classes

Cheadle Heath Council School is the only one of these schools with a central hall, and in the other schools—during the six winter months—practically all the drill was taken in the classrooms owing to the continual wet weather.

In all cases the teachers have taken classes in the open air whenever the weather allowed.

There is a tendency to adhere too rigidly to the table of exercises, but this is difficult to avoid in a crowded classroom where any great freedom of movement is impossible.

Greater care needs to be taken as to how the work is done, and more attention should be paid to getting it done in good positions—sometimes the fault lies with the teacher not being certain of the accuracy of position nor of the correct method of performing the exercises. It would be a distinct advantage if a little specialising could be arranged so that those teachers who are more fitted to teach physical exercises could take other classes as well as their own—this was done in one of the schools on the recommendation of H.M. Inspector.

It is to be hoped that when the revised syllabus of 1919 is available for general use, a plentiful supply will be issued to each school and that the teachers will be given full opportunity of knowing how to make the best use of it—by having free classes and demonstration lessons.

SWIMMING.—During the summer months senior scholars from each school have visited the baths in accordance with the time table. The scholars attend each week, about 50 from each school, and remain at the baths for 45 minutes. The second-class bath at the Central Baths, St. Petersgate, and the Reddish Branch Baths have been used.

The annual swimming test was held in September; certificates were given as follows :—

	Proficiency	68 yards.	17 yards.
Boys	55	147	285
Girls	27	27	68

PLAYFIELDS.—An additional Playfield has been rented by the Committee for the use of Elementary School Children. This gives a total of 11, of which two are still under cultivation as allotments.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of non-notifiable Infectious Diseases are reported by the teachers and school attendance officers to the Health Department, and visits are made to the homes by the Female Sanitary Inspectors. Handbills and leaflets of instruction are left, and any cases of overcrowding, neglect, sanitary defects, &c., are reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

Each school is provided with a "Teachers' Guide to Infectious Diseases."

SCHOOL CLOSURE DURING THE YEAR.

School.	Period of Closure.		Cause of Closure.
	From.	To.	
Edgeley R.C. (Infants' Department).	November 10th.	November 21st.	Minor infectious illness.
Parish Church (Infants' Department).	November 19th.	December 2nd.	Minor infectious illness.
St. Matthew's (Infants' Department).	December 15th.	January 5th, 1920.	Minor infectious illness.
Stockport R. C. (Infants', Boys' and Girls' Senior Departments).	March 26th.	April 6th.	Absence of heating due to breakdown of boiler.

PROVISION OF MEALS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The average number of children provided with meals each week during the year has been 37.4. In 1918 the number was 78.5. There are two centres only in use—Queen Street West Mission Rooms and Charlesworth Street Cookery Centre. Meals are cooked at both places and the children attend for breakfast and dinner five days a week, on Saturdays for dinner only. Meals are provided during the school holidays, save on public holidays, when the catering staff are away.

The breakfast consists of 2ozs. bread, with jam, margarine or treacle, preceded on one morning by cocoa, and on four mornings by porridge served with treacle or milk. The milk allowance is 1/3rd pint per head per day. Meat (1½ozs. per head per day) or fish (3ozs. per head per day), with potatoes and a pudding are served each day for dinner.

	1919	1918	1917
Cost of food per meal.....	2.61d.	2.66d.	1.7d.
Cost of administration per meal.....	1.83d.	1.92d.	1.5d.

40,213 meals have been provided during the year.

Copies of regulations and suggestions on the conduct of Feeding Centres are supplied to the various Centres. It is satisfactory to note that the manners of the children have definitely improved.

Complete co-ordination exists between the work of provision of meals and that of the School Medical Service.

The children who are having free meals are weighed fortnightly at the School Clinic, and any child whose condition is unsatisfactory is seen by the School Doctor.

The Medical Staff to the Education Committee pay periodical visits to the Centres where meals are provided.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

The Supervisor of the Employment Bureau reports as follows:—

The Juvenile Employment Bureau continues to work in close co-operation with the School Medical Officers.

Frequently children make application at the Bureau for employment at the age of 14, who have in many cases been excluded from school for long periods on a Doctor's Certificate, while in other cases there are applicants who are suspected by the Supervisor to be suffering from some organic trouble. In all such cases these are submitted to the School Medical Officer for examination, and the parents are communicated with when it is deemed advisable to place the children under Medical Supervision, or to advise a period of rest before taking up any daily occupation.

The Trustees of the Fearn's Trust give very valuable assistance in this connection by assisting parents to send their children into the country for a period of several months. The Care Committee, which continues to meet month by month, also places these children under regular supervision, though with the advent of a more complete organisation of the school medical work, it is not now necessary to undertake home visitation in the case of children of school age who are reported as physically defective.

The lists supplied by the School Medical Officers after each school examination are most valuable in enabling the Supervisor to dissuade parents from sending children into unsuitable occupations. Particularly are they useful in impressing upon parents the need for taking reasonable care of their children, after they have left school.

The following statistics give some indication of the scope of the work carried out by the Bureau:—

No. of Children leaving School	1,766
„ * Applicants at the Bureau	2,903
„ Children placed in Situations	588
„ Cases visited by Members of the Care Committee	250

* This number is unusually large owing to the Armistice.

INSPECTION AND TREATMENT AT THE CLINICS.

The Clinic is still held in the Town Hall. In April, owing to the large numbers in attendance on the two days the Clinic was open, it was considered necessary to increase the days to four. The Clinic is now open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. A Nurse is in attendance on the Wednesday morning to see children who need to be dressed daily.

An inspection clinic is held on Saturday morning; the cases seen include :—

- (1) Certain cases seen at school that require further examination.
- (2) Children attending for examination previous to being sent to special schools.
- (3) Children sent by the Superintendent of Attendance Officers, to be examined as to their fitness for school. The value of co-ordination of the work of the School Medical Service with that of the School Attendance Department is increasingly manifest.

Frequent conferences occur (if necessary daily) between the School Medical Officers and the Superintendent of School Attendance Officers, and the work of the two branches is harmonised as far as possible.

There have been 10,276 attendances at the Town Hall during the year.

A Clinic is held at North Reddish on one afternoon a week. A Nurse attends weekly and the Doctor fortnightly. 746 attendances have been recorded.

	1919	1918
Total attendances	11,022	6,730
Total number of Children attended.....	2,866	1,975
Average number of attendances	3·8	3·4
(per child)		

TABLE VI.—CASES TREATED AT THE CLINICS.

Condition.	No. of defects treated.	Cured.	Im-proved.	Still under treat-ment.	Ceased attend-ing.	Referr-ed to doctor or hospital	Per-centage cured.
External Eye Disease	117	74	1	15	14	13	63·2
Ear Disease	163	34	9	73	33	14	28·5
R.W. Scalp—							
(1) X-ray Treatment.....	38	37	—	1	—	—	97·3
(2) Ointment Treatment ..	22	9	—	7	—	6	49·0
R.W. Body	40	35	—	5	—	—	87·5
Sores	788	757	—	5	5	21	96·6
Scabies	196	191	—	3	—	2	97·4
Totals	1364	1137	10	109	52	56	83·3

The ~~following~~ ^{preceding} Table gives the main groups of conditions treated at the Clinics; minor injuries, alopecia, septic conditions of the mouth and throat were also in suitable cases given treatment.

In addition 725 children were seen at the Clinics but did not receive treatment. The following is a classified list of these cases:—

Skin Diseases	32
Defective Vision and Eye Disease	104
Ear Disease	7
Deafness	35
Phthisis	17
Tuberculous Conditions other than Phthisis	6
Anæmia, Debility, and Suspected Tuberculosis	75
Bronchitis and Bronchial Catarrh	62
Epilepsy	9
Chorea	6
Nervous Diseases other than Epilepsy & Chorea.....	7
Mental Defects and Backwardness	14
Enlarged Glands	30
Heart Disease	20
Rheumatism.....	4
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	120
Other Nose and Throat conditions	33
Fevers	66
Injuries and Minor Ailments	22
Deformities.....	11
Miscellaneous	45
	<hr/>
	725

DISEASES TREATED AT THE CLINICS. RINGWORM OF THE SCALP.

Number out of school at the end of 1918.....	4
New cases excluded during the year.....	60
	<hr/>
Total	64
	<hr/>

Cases sent back to school certified cured	48
Number out of school at the end of 1919	16

The results obtained from X-ray treatment are satisfactory.

Number treated by X-rays	38
Number certified as fit for school	35

In addition, 1 case treated by X-rays during 1918, which was out of school at the end of the year, has been certified as cured.

As in previous years, many of the parents preferred to try ointment treatment first. All the cases received after-treatment by ointments at the Clinics.

Number treated by ointment only	16
Number certified as fit for school	9

Of the three cases under ointment treatment at the end of 1918, all have been sent back to school with certificates.

RINGWORM OF THE BODY.

40 cases have been treated during the year. The average length of treatment was 27·7 days.

SCABIES AND IMPETIGO.

788 cases of Impetigo have been treated, and of these 5 were still attending at the end of the year.

Many of the cases of impetigo, especially the severer ones, have attended several days a week at the Town Hall, in order to ensure more thorough treatment. In this way the time of exclusion from school has been shortened. The number of cases of scabies decreased during the year. 196 cases were treated, 3 were still out of school at the end of the year. In 1918 the number of cases was 226. The average number of attendances was 4·2, and the average length of treatment was 47·3 days.

This number shows an improvement from last year, when the number of days of treatment was 56·7 days.

By excluding a few cases, the length of treatment would be found to be about halved; but the disease persisted in the children of 3 families where no time or trouble was taken to carry out treatment.

EYE DISEASE.

One hundred and seventeen cases have been treated. 26 were cases of blepharitis; these are found usually to have defective vision, and are most quickly cured by the provision of suitable glasses. The other cases included 41 of conjunctivitis, 15 of corneal ulcer, and 7 of iritis; 15 cases were still attending at the end of the year.

EAR DISEASE.

One hundred and sixty-three cases have been treated. The large majority were cases of otorrhœa. A "running ear" can only be cured by continuous treatment, and good results are only accomplished when regular attendance is obtained. Comparatively few parents realise that the ear is not "better left running," and that the discharge is a constant source of danger to the child. In 34 cases the discharge ceased under treatment, and 73 were still attending at the end of the year.

DEFECTIVE VISION.

Prescriptions for glasses have been given during the year to 364 children.

The amount of time available for this work is not nearly sufficient. It is practically impossible to keep pace with the new cases referred for refraction, and the children who already have glasses should be re-tested more frequently.

The Stockport Blind Institution has again given most generous help in the provision of glasses in needy cases. 207 pairs of spectacles have been supplied by them during the year.

By arrangements with two Stockport opticians, glasses, prescribed by the School Doctors, are provided at reduced prices for those parents who can pay.

One hundred and thirty-seven cases have been sent to the Manchester Eye Hospital.

There are many children suffering from a high degree of short sight, for whom education in a special myope class would be more suitable.

There is no doubt that the amount of defective vision amongst children is increasing, and the cause for this cannot be found in the schools where conditions of lighting, etc., tend to improve; cheap and badly-printed picture papers read at home by poor lights are probably one source of this increase; but the chief causal factor is, almost without doubt, the "Cinema." The children go frequently, and often late at night when the eyes are already tired and easily strained.

In connection with this, the Eastbourne Corporation requested Mr. N. Bishop Harman to investigate, and in a report brought out in conjunction with Dr. W. G. Willoughby, the Medical Officer of Health, he states that the optimum position from which to view the picture is as nearly as possible in a line with the centre of the screen, and as far away as thrice its full height. Front seats, to which the children are often relegated, are only the distance from the screen of once its height. The Corporation has decided to include a clause drawn up on the lines suggested in any new licences issued.

The matter is certainly worth consideration.

VACCINATION.

2,667 children, or 42·4 per cent. of the routine cases were found to have no vaccination marks. The figures for the two preceding years were 33·11 per cent. and 24·0 per cent. The number of children not vaccinated is increasing even more rapidly than the figures show. As taken generally, the Leavers are vaccinated, the Entrants are not.

MISCELLANEOUS.

(1) 223 minor scholarship candidates were examined at the Town Hall. No candidate was rejected as unsuitable.

(2) Seven children were examined and given medical certificates for admission into industrial institutions.

(3) A hundred children were examined before being sent away under the auspices of the Fresh Air Fund.

(a) HEIGHT IN INCHES.

School.	Average at 5 years.		Average at 8 years.		Average at 12 years.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Parish Church C.E.	42.4	41.04	47.7	46.9	54.3	55.7
Hope Memorial C.E.	41.5	37.7	46.0	46.4	—	—
Vernon Park Cl.	39.2	39.5	46.45	45.7	53.3	53.7
St. George's C.E.	41.3	41.4	47.25	47.5	53.9	56.01
Cale Green Cl.	40.8	40.4	46.6	46.35	54.5	54.3
Hr. Brinksway Cl.	40.0	41.5	46.2	46.8	54.9	55.2
All Saints' C.E.	38.1	38.5	47.4	46.0	53.35	55.3
Lancashire Hill Cl.	41.0	41.1	46.7	46.95	54.4	53.75
Christ Church C.E.	41.03	40.5	48.6	47.9	55.2	54.01
Edgeley R.C.	39.8	40.4	47.4	47.2	53.2	54.35
St. Mary's C.E.	40.8	41.8	45.5	45.9	53.8	53.0
South Reddish Cl.	41.75	41.75	46.9	46.45	52.85	55.2
St. Paul's C.E.	41.05	38.8	48.8	48.5	46.1	55.1
Central Partial Exemp.	—	—	—	—	53.6	54.3
St. Thomas', H. Chapel .	41.7	40.9	48.9	48.7	56.0	56.25
St. John's, H. Mersey ..	42.7	40.9	47.2	47.9	55.5	56.1
Portwood Temp. Cl.	42.0	39.9	47.0	46.7	54.2	54.7
St. Peter's C.E.	40.5	40.01	45.45	46.6	53.05	53.0
Gt. Moor C.E.	42.6	42.5	44.5	48.07	54.6	56.3
North Reddish Cl.	41.7	41.2	47.1	46.6	54.6	55.4
Houldsworth	41.1	40.6	47.8	46.45	53.9	54.7
Cheadle Heath Cl.	41.6	42.5	48.4	48.4	54.2	56.9
Brentnall St. Wes. H.G.	41.0	40.8	48.2	48.6	55.4	55.2
Reddish R.C.	42.2	40.0	47.8	47.2	52.3	54.6
Hollywood Park Cl.	40.08	39.7	46.5	46.5	53.07	54.75
St. Thomas' C.E.	39.7	39.3	46.4	45.9	52.3	53.6
St. Matthew's C.E.	40.8	40.7	45.35	45.9	54.0	54.4
Stockport R.C.	40.05	39.6	46.8	46.45	51.3	53.04
Banks Lane Cl.	41.5	41.08	47.5	46.25	53.3	55.9
St. Mary's R.C.	40.25	40.0	46.6	45.01	53.6	53.5
Alexandra Park Cl.	41.5	40.6	47.3	48.4	55.9	57.7
Edgeley Cl.	40.5	40.8	47.2	46.7	54.9	54.3
Wellington Road Cl.	40.9	40.7	47.3	46.55	55.9	54.7
Heaton Moor T. Cl.	42.7	41.95	48.45	48.3	54.3	59.0
Hanover Cl.	41.9	36.3	46.7	46.7	54.4	52.5
Average.....	41.06	40.42	47.05	46.95	53.82	54.89
Standard	41.03	40.55	47.0	46.0	55.0	55.5
Municipal Secondary ...	—	—	—	—	55.7	56.8

(b) WEIGHTS IN POUNDS.

School.	Average at 5 years.		Average at 8 years.		Average at 12 years.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Parish Church C.E.	39.0	37.35	51.3	48.8	72.0	71.0
Hope Memorial C.E.	40.0	36.2	48.6	49.5	—	—
Vernon Park Cl.	36.3	36.3	49.7	46.9	66.8	67.7
St. George's C.E.	39.1	38.9	49.8	49.4	70.06	74.5
Cale Green Cl.	39.55	37.9	49.15	47.85	70.65	68.5
Hr. Brinksway Cl.	38.5	38.2	49.4	49.4	72.5	73.6
All Saints' C.E.	36.6	38.0	50.4	48.95	65.4	71.9
Lancashire Hill Cl.	37.5	38.6	50.5	46.4	69.1	66.3
Christ Church C.E.	38.4	35.35	52.06	49.0	72.2	67.6
Edgeley R.C.	37.2	38.1	50.7	46.3	67.5	70.5
St. Mary's C.E.	39.3	38.9	47.5	48.7	68.9	70.45
South Reddish Cl.	39.6	38.2	50.7	48.9	67.7	74.47
St. Paul's C.E.	36.65	32.6	50.55	50.55	59.45	67.2
Central Partial Exemp. .	—	—	—	—	69.9	70.0
St. Thomas', H. Chapel	36.9	38.2	51.0	51.0	71.8	66.9
St. John's, H. Mersey .	40.3	36.3	48.5	51.8	72.35	74.3
Portwood T. Cl.	38.5	35.4	50.2	46.3	68.4	68.75
St. Peter's C.E.	38.75	35.0	47.6	47.2	66.4	53.5
Great Moor C.E.	40.08	40.8	51.7	49.5	71.6	76.6
North Reddish Cl.	40.8	38.9	51.5	49.1	70.9	73.5
Houldsworth	38.1	37.5	52.0	47.4	69.2	69.6
Cheadle Heath Cl.	39.7	39.4	54.1	51.6	69.9	75.2
Brentnall St. Wes. H.G..	38.4	37.7	51.3	49.5	72.7	72.9
Reddish R.C.	39.65	35.3	50.9	47.7	69.0	70.04
Hollywood Park Cl.	38.7	38.0	51.2	49.45	69.4	68.84
St. Thomas' C.E.	38.3	36.2	48.9	45.5	66.4	70.4
St. Matthew's C.E.	39.45	38.9	46.7	46.01	71.3	70.7
Stockport R.C.	38.45	37.7	48.95	46.5	66.4	65.8
Banks Lane Cl.	40.7	37.9	49.8	45.85	63.2	77.2
St. Mary's R.C.	37.2	36.3	47.1	44.6	69.3	66.35
Alexandra Park Cl.	39.9	38.1	49.5	48.6	73.4	77.1
Edgeley Cl.	38.7	38.2	50.8	47.9	73.1	70.03
Wellington Rd. Cl.	47.5	38.9	49.7	46.5	73.9	71.4
Heaton Moor T. Cl.	40.9	37.7	53.5	50.8	66.9	90.0
Hanover Cl.	39.2	33.75	50.05	47.2	70.75	68.3
Average.....	39.05	37.37	50.15	48.25	69.36	70.91
Standard	39.9	39.2	55.0	52.5	71.76	76.5
Municipal Secondary .	—	—	—	—	72.3	75.6

